

# Exhibition marks 25th year at UD

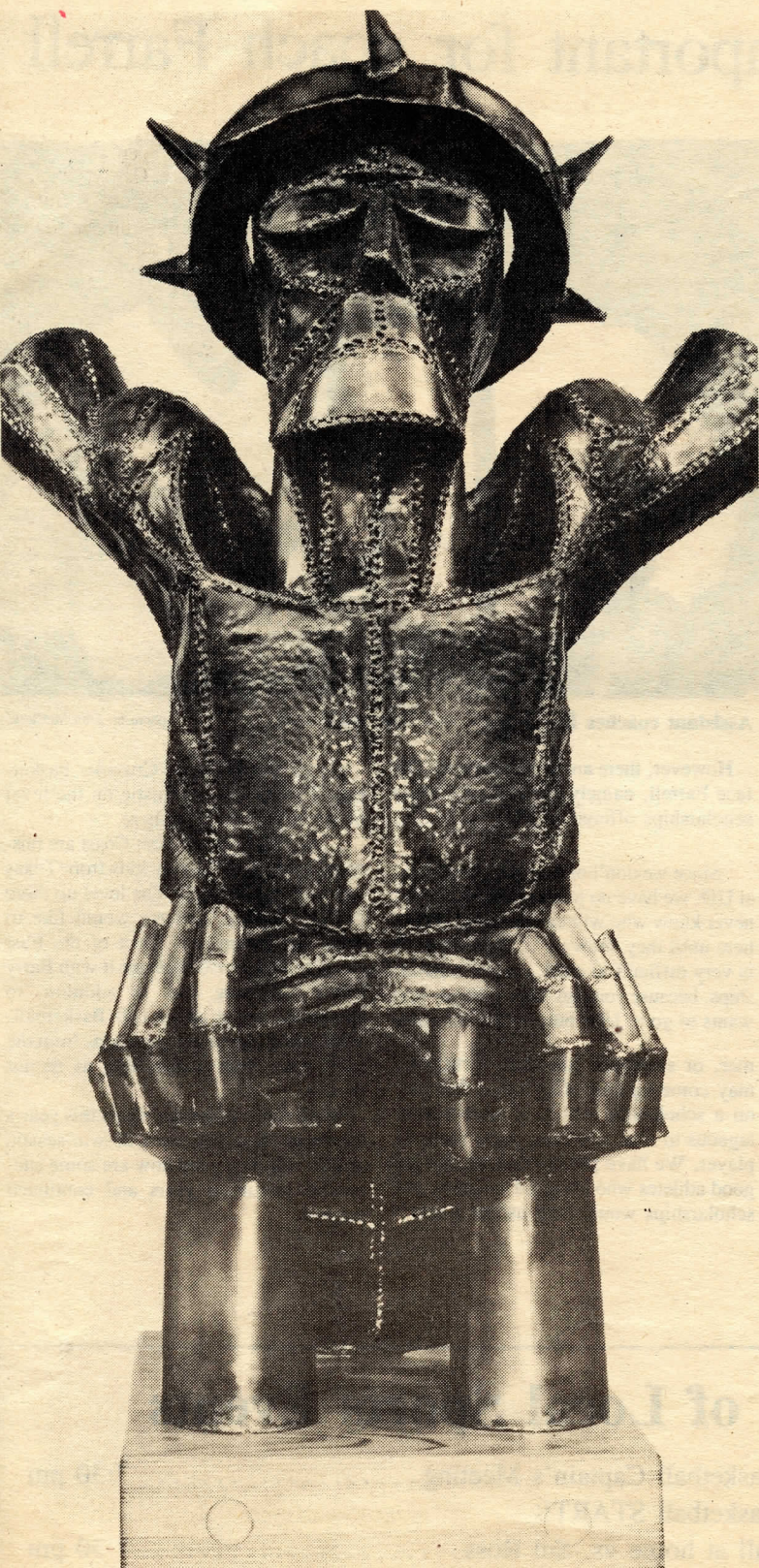
by Ashley Erler

Professor Heri Bert Bartscht will be exhibiting his sculptures in the University of Dallas Haggart Art Gallery Feb. 5 through Feb. 28. He has had a number of other exhibits on campus, but this one will mark his 25th year at UD. Bartscht was the man responsible for organizing the discipline of sculpture within the University's art department a quarter of a century ago.

Bartscht prefers sculpture to painting because he is a realist. In his own words, Bartscht says "I'm not a dreamer. The third dimension is a palpable reality." Whereas a painter can creatively interpret any scene on his canvas, the sculptor must be committed to an object's genuine condition. This commitment, according to Bartscht, includes a dedication to choosing the proper material, for his artistic expression whether that material be wood, stone, or metal.

Bartscht's favorite themes for his art are religious. He says that these are the most "powerful, dramatic, clear, and demanding." It is not the decorative aspect of a piece, but rather the innate feeling conveyed by it, which interests Bartscht. For example, while he sees no sense in a "cutesy" Madonna, he values a sculpture of a Madonna representing not only the Christian birth of Jesus, but the universal meaning of motherhood as well. As Bartscht sees it, saints are mediators between God and ourselves, and a good sculptor can translate for us the message which God has given the saints.

Bartscht mostly enjoys creating sculptures which enhance the architecture of a church. He has done numerous pieces for churches around the country, including the 14 bronze stations of the cross embedded in the floor of UD's Chapel of the Incarnation. For this reason, most of his works cannot be put on display together. Some of Bartscht's sculptures that will be part of the exhibit come from the personal collections of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Smith, the Patrick Haggerty family, Dr. and Mrs. Criswell, and Dr. Jack Paynter and Dr. Peggy Bailey. The exhibit opens on Feb. 5 with a reception from 7-9 pm, which all in the UD community are welcome to attend.



"Descent from the Cross", a steel sculpture done by Professor Bartscht in 1967.